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The Wardrobe Ensemble

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EDUCATION,
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NICK HERN BOOKS

London

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Copyright and Performing Rights Information

Education, Education, Education was co-produced by The Wardrobe Ensemble, Royal & Derngate, Northampton, and Shoreditch Town Hall, with support from the Kevin Spacey Foundation and Arts Council England.

There was a work-in-progress performance of the show as part of Bristol Ferment at Bristol Old Vic in February 2017.

The show premiered at the Pleasance Dome at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August 2017. with the following cast:

PAUL McINTYRE/LANCELOT	Tom Brennan
HUGH MILLS/KING ARTHUR	Tom England
EMILY GREENSLADE/ DONNA	Emily Greenslade
LOUISE TURNER/GUINEVERE	Kerry Lovell
SUE BELLTOP-DOYLE	Jesse Meadows
TOBIAS/GARETH	James Newton
TIMOTHY PASHLEY	Ben Vardy

<i>Devised and written by</i>	Tom Brennan
	Tom England
	Emily Greenslade
	Jesse Jones
	Kerry Lovell
	Jesse Meadows
	Helena Middleton
	James Newton

Directors

Designer

Lighting Designer

Sound Designer

Costume Supervisor

Dramaturg

Producer

Ben Vardy
Edythe Woolley

Jesse Jones
Helena Middleton

Lucy Sierra

Katharine Williams

Ben Grant

Felicity Jones

Bea Roberts

Hannah Smith

To our parents, to Tid and Miranda, and to all teachers

Director's Note

Jesse Jones and Helena Middleton

It is 2017, twenty years since Tony Blair moved into his new home on Downing Street after a landslide victory underscored by the theme song 'Things Can Only Get Better'. It's been twenty years since we last felt the country was united in optimism; since the Union Jack was cool and not inflammatory. Before nationalism turned nasty and the phrase 'War on Terror' existed. A time where a German language assistant on placement in a school in England could reflect with sincerity 'You're shouting Cool Britannia from the rooftops and everyone else is happy to hear it.' *Education, Education, Education* takes us back to 1997, but through the rose-tinted lenses of those who are looking at it twenty years on.

The show is a reflection, from the generation that benefited from the millions of pounds and myriad resources which were poured into the British education system, on the impact of Blair's education policies and the legacies of his government. In the process of making the show we interviewed, met, drank with teachers who worked in the nineties. We were struck by the excitement with which they described going to work the day after the Blair election; how they felt their profession was valued. After our first work-in-progress showing of *Education, Education, Education* to a group of teachers, one reflected on how children had now become statistics, that their value lay in the grades they could produce, not the passions that they held. These opposing views are encapsulated in our characters, Miss Belltop-Doyle and Miss Turner, both wanting the best for